



ĀZĀDBEH B. BĀNEGĀN

ĀZĀDBEH B. BĀNEGĀN (MĀHĀN?) B. MEHR-BONDĀD, a *dehqān* (landowner) of Hamadān, *marzbān* (governor) in the former Lakhmid capital of Ḥīra in central Iraq during the years preceding the Arab conquest of that province. Ṭabari's account of his governorship cites as source Hešām b. Moḥammad Kalbī and this same historian says that he governed Ḥīra for seventeen years after the rule there of the Arab Iyās b. Qabiṣa Ṭā'ī and the Persian co-ruler, Naḳīragān. Since he was killed in 12/633, the beginning of his governorship should probably be placed in A.D. 617 or 618. Āzādbeh represents the Sasanian policy of imposing, in effect, direct rule on Ḥīra after the deposition of the last Lakhmid king No'mān V b. Monḍer. His tenure of power there spanned the troubled reigns of Ḳosrow II, Šērōya, Ardašīr III, Pūrān, Hormozd V, and Yazdegerd III. The Arabs appeared in Iraq during Abū Bakr's caliphate (soon after the suppression of the Redda wars) under Ḳāled b. Walīd and Moṭannā b. Ḥāreṭa Šaybānī. In 12/633 Āzādbeh was defeated by the Arabs, and his son killed in the fighting; the Arabs then proceeded to besiege Ḥīra, while Āzādbeh fled. Nothing is recorded in the Arabic sources of his ultimate fate.



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